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Letter dated 28 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would highly appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and the attached "Geneva Call for Urgent Action on the Implementation of the Successful Nagoya Outcomes" as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19 (see annex).

(*Signed*) Paul **Seger**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 28 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué

Geneva Call for Urgent Action on the Implementation of the Successful Nagoya Outcomes

Montreal, 7 September 2011. On Saturday, 3 September 2011, the past, present and future Presidents of the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed and signed, at their annual high-level meeting at Chateau Bossey, Switzerland, the "Geneva Call for Urgent Action on the Implementation of the Successful Nagoya Outcomes".

The meeting was opened by Mr. Tatsushi Terada, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs of Japan, speaking on behalf of the President of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Participants also heard a statement from Mr. Bruno Oberle, Director of the Federal Office for the Environment in the Swiss Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications and viewed a short video message from Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Following an update from Mr. Hem Pande, representing the Government of India, on the preparations for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in 2012, participants reviewed the draft "Call for Urgent Action" and adopted it as proposed after some discussion. A separate report of the meeting will reflect this discussion, which focused on a number of emerging issues that will be further developed for inclusion in future meetings of the Presidents.

The "Call for Urgent Action" confirms the continued declining status of global biodiversity, commits its signatories to increased implementation action to reverse this decline and calls on Governments to:

- Sign and ratify, as soon as possible, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing
- Develop and implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans and adopt national and regional targets within the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- Celebrate the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity
- Consider convening a high-level event on biodiversity with the participation of Heads of State and Government at the seventieth session of the General Assembly, to be held in September 2015, on the occasion of the midterm evaluation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- Increase efforts towards achieving synergies among the three Rio conventions in the light of the interconnectivity of biodiversity, climate change and desertification

The full text of the "Call for Urgent Action" and the report of the meeting can be accessed from http://www.cbd.int/hlm/2011/.

The "Call for Urgent Action" will be forwarded to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session and also to the high-level segment of the special session of the Assembly on desertification, to be held later in October in New York.